

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 10 and 11 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Please AMEND claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 15, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet material information-detecting apparatus comprising:

[[a]] sheet feeding means for feeding [[a]] an anisotropic sheet material;

[[a]] correcting means for correcting the position of the fed sheet material to bring the orientation direction of the constituting material of the sheet material to be in a prescribed direction relative to the feed direction of the sheet material;

[[an]] external force applying means for applying an external force to the sheet material in the corrected position, wherein the applied external force is a mechanical force;

[[a]] signal-detecting means for detecting signal from the sheet material; and

[[an]] information-acquiring means for acquiring information on the stress caused by the applied external force in the sheet material.

2. (Currently Amended) The sheet material information-detecting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a sheet material sensor for sensing interaction of the external force applying means and the ~~signal-detecting~~ signal-detecting means with the sheet material.

3. (Original) The sheet material information-detecting apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the sheet material sensor detects the state or position of the sheet material.

4. (Currently Amended) The sheet material information-detecting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sheet information acquiring means acquires information by comparison of the result of the detection by the ~~signal detecting~~ signal-detecting means with data.

5. (Currently Amended) The sheet material information-detecting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sheet ~~information-acquiring~~ information-acquiring means acquires information on the sheet material by comparison of the result of detection by the ~~signal detecting~~ signal-detecting means with data for directions of the sheet material.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The sheet material information-detecting apparatus according to claim ~~[[6,]]~~ 1, wherein the mechanical force is plural times of impacts at different collision velocities.

8. (Original) The sheet material information-detecting apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the external force is vibrations having different frequency components.

9. (Original) The sheet material information-detecting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a restricting member is provided for restricting the region of displacement of the sheet material on application of the external force.

10-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The sheet material information-detecting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the signal-detecting means is comprised of a material having a piezoelectric property.

13. (Original) A sheet-material treating apparatus, comprising the sheet material information-detecting apparatus set forth in claim 1, and a sheet material-treating assembly for treating the sheet material by utilizing the information obtained by the sheet information-detecting apparatus.

14. (Original) A sheet material feeding unit comprising the sheet material information-detecting apparatus set forth in claim 1, and a driving assembly for the sheet material feeding means.

15. (Currently Amended) A process for acquiring information on an anisotropic sheet material, comprising the steps of:

correcting the position of a fed sheet material to bring the orientation direction

of the constituting material of the sheet material to be in a prescribed direction relative to the feed direction of the sheet material;

applying [[an]] a mechanical external force to the sheet material in the corrected position; and

acquiring information on the stress caused by the applied external force in the sheet material.